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DELIVER TO:

Dr. Michael Woodward

FACSIMILE #:

703-746-5278

DATE:

May 19, 2003

FROM:

Robert C. Netter, Ph.D.

Technical Advisor

OPERATOR:

Robert Netter

Total Pages:

3 (including cover sheet)

Re:

09/359,181

Comments:

Summary for interview tomorrow (5/20) at 10AM

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COUNSELORS AT LAW ESTABLISHED 1973

PATENT, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAW AND RELATED CAUSES

PROSECUTION LICENSING LITIGATION DISPUTE RESOLUTION

C. MARSHALL DANN (1977-2008)

May 19, 2003

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USPTO

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Re:

Examiner interview regarding Advisory Action received in connection with:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/359,181

Entitled: Computer-aided Method for the Provision, Identification, and

Description of Molecules

Inventor: Gerard Grassv

Dear Examiner Woodward:

In the Advisory Action dated 11 February 2003 Examiner Clow indicated that certain steps of claims 1 and 18 allegedly fail to satisfy the enablement requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph with regards to the molecular modeling step requiring molecular descriptors. The aim of the proposed amendments provided hereinbelow is to clarify that the present methods are not directed to the creation or discovery of previously unidentified molecular descriptors. Rather, consistent with and supported by the example given in the detailed description of the present application, the objectionable method steps of claims 1 and 18 relate to the selection of descriptors which by implication are known at the time the method is performed.

The amended claims would, of course, cover the use of new descriptors which might be created or discovered in the future, but this practice is typical. After all, a hypothetical patent filed before the discovery of aluminum and directed to a method of conducting electricity along a metal wire would, quite rightly, be infringed by a person using an aluminum wire to conduct electricity.

The proposed claim amendments are as follows:

in the first step of claim 1:

"a molecular modeling step in which molecular descriptors are selected [determined] computationally;"

and the first step of claim 18:

"a step of molecular modeling in which molecular descriptors of a molecule having immunomodulatory activity are <u>selected</u> [determined] computationally."

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Piper, Jr.

PTO Registration No. 29,337

RCN/drp Enclosures